

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01426 200317Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 01426

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA SA OCON

SUBJ: SAUDI ARABIAN "INFORMAL IDEA" FOR MEETING IN GENEVA
OR VIENNA AS FOLLOW-UP TO SPECIAL GA SESSION

1. SAUDI ARABIAN PERM REP BAROODY CALLED ME OFF ASSEMBLY FLOOR TO DISCUSS WHAT HE CALLED "URGENT MATTER". HE ASKED USG REACTION TO FOLL "INFORMAL IDEA": AS FOLLOW-UP TO SPECIAL GA SESSION, THERE SHLD BE A MTG IN EITHER GENEVA OR VIENNA OF OIL-MINISTER TYPES FROM IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, VENEZUELA, ALGERIA, US, 2 COMMON MARKET REPS, JAPAN, INDIA, BRAZIL, AND PERHAPS MEXICO, KENYA AND SENEGAL. PURPOSE WOULD BE TO DECIDE PRACTICAL STEPS TO EASE OIL CRISIS, INCLUDING PRICES, AVAILABILITIES AND POSSIBLE SPECIAL AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

2. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, HE SAID THAT HE AND OIL MINISTER YAMANI HAD DISCUSSED BETWEEN THEM THE IDEA THAT THIS MEETING MIGHT SUPERSEDE FOLLOW-UP TO WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. HE SAID HE HAS DISCUSSED CONCEPT WITH GA PRES BENITES, WHO HAS WARNED HIM THAT RIVALRY BETWEEN BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO EXCLUDE BOTH UNLESS MEXICO WERE TO BE LONE LA REP.

3. HE SAID HE HAS DISCUSSED THIS "IDEA" WITH BRIT PERM REP RICHARD, WHO INDICATED, ACCORDING TO BAROODY, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01426 200317Z

THEY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN HAVING FRANCE AS A

COMMON MARKET REPRESENTATIVE. BAROODY SAID CHOOSING FRENCH REP MIGHT MAKE FRANCE MORE RESPONSIBLE.

4. YAMANI AND KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER ARE MEETING WITH WALDHEIM SECRETLY OVER DINNER TONIGHT TO DISCUSS OIL PROBLEM, HE SAID. USG AND SAUDI ARABIA MUST COOPERATE CLOSELY IN PRESENT OIL EMERGENCY TO PREVENT SITUATION FROM DETERIORATING AND TO DO FAR BETTER TASK OF CONTROLLING INFLATION.

5. I SAID MY OFF-HAND REACTION WAS THAT THIS WOULD CAUSE SOME DISMAY IN WASHINGTON BECAUSE IT WOULD CONFLICT WITH PLANNED FOLLOW-UP WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. BAROODY SAID ORIGINAL WASHINGTON ENERGY CONF WAS REASON ALGERIA TRIGGERED INTO CALLING FOR GA SPECIAL SESSION. I URGED HIM MAKE NO COMMITMENT OR SPREAD FURTHER WORD WITH OTHERS UNTIL I COULD GIVE HIM WASHINGTON REACTION.

6. BAROODY SAID THAT SUGGESTED LIST OF COUNTRIES WAS NOT SAUDI ARABIA'S, BUT "CRYSTALLIZED FROM MANY SUGGESTIONS MADE TO US." IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, HE SAID JUNE OR JULY MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE DATE FOR PROPOSED MTG.

COMMENT: BAROODY WLD NOT FLOAT SUCH PROPOSITION AS "IDEA" UNLESS IT HAD BEEN THOUGHT THROUGH FAIRLY WELL BY SAUDIS. HE INDICATED AMERICAN OPPOSITION MIGHT TORPEDO PROJECT BECAUSE HE SAID AMERICAN PARTICIPATION WAS CENTRAL SINCE WE ARE PRODUCER AND EXPORTER AND MAJOR INT'L FIGURE.

I AM DISTURBED AT HIS ATTEMPT TO PLAY BACK-STAGE ROLE BECAUSE WHILE HE IS PRO-WESTERN, HE IS EXCITABLE, AND CLD BE USED BY FRANCE TO PROMOTE JOBERT WORLD CONF PLAN.

FURTHER, HIS BACK-STATE ACTIVITIES CLD ENCOURAGE WALDHEIM TO BELIEVE UN ONLY APPROPRIATE FRAMEWORK FOR DISCUSSIONS OF THIS AND OTHER MATTERS BEST LEFT TO OTHER ORGANS.

IF OUR REACTION NEGATIVE, SUGGEST
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PAGE 03 USUN N 01426 200317Z

AUTHORIZE QUICK REPLY TO KEEP BAROODY FROM CHARGING AHEAD.
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